

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 05146 261020Z

15

ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 IO-14 NEA-10 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 OIC-04

AEC-11 AECE-00 OMB-01 DRC-01 INRE-00 /149 W

----- 084644

O 260931Z OCT 73

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2352

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

S E C R E T USNATO 5146

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: DATA ISSUE

VIENNA FOR USDEL MBFR

REF: A) STATE 209532 B) USNATO 5130

SUMMARY: SPC ON OCTOBER 25 ASKED MBFR WORKING GROUP TO MEET ON OCTOBER 26 AND ATTEMPT TO REACH AGREEMENT ON ROUNDED FIGURES FOR SIX CATEGORIES OF DATA CONTAINED REF A. MBFR WORKING GROUP ACTING CHAIRMAN WAS OPTIMISTIC THAT THIS COULD BE DONE, BUT SOME ALLIES WERE DOUBTFUL AND CITED COMPLICATIONS CREATED BY LAST MINUTE U.S. FIGURES WHICH CONFLICTED WITH AGREED TOE CONFERENCE DATA.

ON PUBLIC RELEASE ISSUE, UK, CANADA, BELGIUM, ITALY, FRG, NETHERLANDS, NORWAY, MOST SPEAKING UNDER INSTRUCTIONS, BELIEVED THAT ALLIES SHOULD NOT RELEASE THEIR OWN OFFICIAL FIGURES UNTIL THEY HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO
SECRET

PAGE 02 NATO 05146 261020Z

WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES IN MBFR NEGOTIATIONS. U.S. REP ADVISED AGAINST REFERRING TO IISS FIGURES, WHICH WERE LOWER FOR SOVIET FORCES THAN WERE LATEST U.S. FIGURES, AND WARNED AGAINST PUTTING ALLIED SPOKESMEN IN POSITION OF HAVING TO EXPLAIN TO PRESS AND PUBLIC

OPINION WHY, AFTER FOUR YEARS OF STUDY, ALLIES COULD NOT PROVIDE
ROUNDED FIGURES ON NATO AND WARSAW PACT STRENGTH. SPC WILL MEET
AGAIN ON AFTERNOON OF OCTOBER 26, TO RECEIVE REPORT FROM MBFR
WORKING GROUP AND TO HAVE FURTHER DISCUSSION OF PRE-REDUCTION STABILI

ZING MEASURES. END SUMMARY

1. KASTL EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD CONVENED SPC IN ORDER TO REQUEST
MBFR WORKING GROUP TO HAVE OCTOBER 26 MEETING ON DATA AND TO HAVE
SPC DISCUSS UK PROPOSAL (REF B) FOR PUBLIC RELEASE OF DATA. KASTL
NOTED THAT CERTAIN ALLIES HAD FLOATED DATA IN AD HOC GROUP, AND HE
WONDERED IF THIS PROBLEM OF REACHING AGREEMENT ON DATA WOULD NOT
BE BETTER RESOLVED IN BRUSSELS, WHERE ALLIES COULD DRAW UPON
RESOURCES OF IMS AND MBFR WORKING GROUP.

2. UK REP (LOGAN) SAID THAT THERE WERE TWO ASPECTS OF THE DATA
PROBLEM: PUTTING FORWARD AGREED DATA IN NEGOTIATIONS THEMSELVES
AND RELEASE OF FIGURES PRIOR TO NEGOTIATIONS. ON FIRST POINT,
ALLIES MUST WORK URGENTLY TO REACH AGREEMENT ON FIGURES WHICH THEY
CAN PUT FORWARD IN ACTUAL NEGOTIATIONS, SINCE THEY WILL UNDOUBTEDLY
NEED TO RESPOND AT AN EARLY POINT TO WARSAW PACT INQUIRIES. IT MAY
TAKE MORE THAN ONE MEETING OF MBFR WORKING GROUP TO REACH AGREE-
MENT ON THESE FIGURES. ON SECOND POINT, ALLIES WILL NEED TO GIVE
PUBLIC CLEAR PICTURE OF COMPARATIVE STRENGTHS IN ORDER TO FORTIFY
CASE FOR ASYMMETRIC REDUCTIONS. UK DID NOT BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT
ALLIES SHOULD PROVIDE OFFICIAL NATO FIGURES UNTIL THEY WERE
TABLED IN NEGOTIATIONS. A COMBINATION OF STEPS SUGGESTED IN
THE UK PROPOSAL (REF B) SHOULD BE SUFFICIENT IN THE MEANTIME.

3. U.S. REP STRESSED URGENCY OF REACHING AGREEMENT IN NATO, AND
CITED THE SIX CATEGORIES IN REF A AS THOSE FOR WHICH ALLIED
SPOKESMAN WOULD NEED ROUNDED FIGURES. HE OBSERVED THAT OCTOBER 19
U.S. FIGURES WERE EITHER IDENTICAL OR VERY CLOSE TO FIGURES
CONTAINED IN REVISED IMS CHART (SEE SEPTTEL). HE NOTED THAT
IISS FIGURES FOR SOVIET FORCES (371,000) WERE LOWER THAN U.S.
ESTIMATE, AND ARGUED THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER NOT TO HAVE TO REVISE
FIGURES UPWARDS.

SECRET

PAGE 03 NATO 05146 261020Z

USE OF CONFLICTING NATIONAL FIGURES WOULD CREATE PUBLIC MISUNDER-
STANDING AND ADVERSE PRESS COMMENTARY WHICH WOULD NOT BE HELPFUL TO
ALLIANCE. AS FOR NEED FOR FIGURES, U.S. REP NOTED THAT SEVERAL
ALLIES WERE BEING QUERIED CLOSELY BY PRESS, AND IT WOULD BE HIGHLY
UNDERSIRABLE FOR ALLIES TO PUT OUT THEIR OWN NATIONAL FIGURES.

4. MILITARY COMMITTEE REP (CULIN) SAID HE WAS OPTIMISTIC THAT
MBFR WORKING GROUP WOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE SPC WITH FAVORABLE
REPLY ON ROUNDED FIGURES BY AFTERNOON OF OCTOBER 26. HE REGRETTED
THAT EARLIER OCTOBER 23 IMS CHART WAS NOT BASED ON FIGURES
COMPARABLE TO NEW U.S. DATA, AND NOTED THAT IMS HAD PUT OUT A
REVISION, WHICH INDICATED MAXIMUM DIFFERENCES OF ONLY 8 PERCENT.
WORKING GROUP AGREEMENT ON ROUNDED FIGURES FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

PURPOSES DID NOT, OF COURSE, REPRESENT AGREEMENT TO CHANGE FIGURES RESULTING FROM TOE CONFERENCE (MC 224). ANY REVISION OF THOSE FIGURES WILL TAKE LONGER. HE COMMENTED THAT WORKING GROUP WAS "WITHIN HOURS" OF PUBLISHING FINAL DOCUMENT ON WARSAW PACT FORCES, BASED ON TOE CONFERENCE DATA, WHEN U.S. TABLED REVISED DATA ON OCTOBER 19. HE WAS NOT ABLE ASSESS IMPACT ON THAT DETAILED DATA OF U.S. OCTOBER 19 PAPER. IF U.S. IMPLYING THAT IT WANTS TO REVISE DETAILS OF DATA BASE, THIS WOULD CERTAINLY TAKE LONGER.

5. CANADIAN REP MARSHALL WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC OVER BEING ABLE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON MAJOR FIGURES ON OCTOBER 26, SINCE SOME DELEGATIONS WOULD BE WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS. HE FAILED TO UNDERSTAND WHY IT WAS NECESSARY TO PRESENT NATO FIGURES TO THE PUBLIC, AND HE FAVORED THE UK APPROACH. HE PARTICULARLY FAVORED IDEA OF REFERRING TO IISS FIGURES, SINCE ALLIES DID NOT HAVE TO ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEM. ALLIES COULD NOTE THAT THEIR FIGURES ARE NOT IDENTICAL TO IISS FIGURES, BUT ARE NOT FAR OFF. THIS APPROACH WOULD LEAVE ALLIES FLEXIBILITY FOR ADJUSTING THEIR OWN DATA FOR USE IN NEGOTIATIONS. IN ANY CASE, HE THOUGHT THAT THE U.S. WAS ASKING TOO MUCH TO REQUEST ALLIES TO ACCEPT MINUTE FIGURES, PUT FORWARD WITH INADEQUATE NATIONAL DATA, IN LIEU OF DATA WHICH HAD BEEN AGREED AT TOE CONFERENCE AND WHICH REPRESENTED SEVERAL YEARS OF PREPARATORY WORK IN NATO.

6. NORWEGIAN REP DID NOT WANT TO GIVE ANY PUBLIC GLOSS TO NATO FIGURES AT THE OUTSET OF NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH MIGHT ENTANGLE
SECRET

PAGE 04 NATO 05146 261020Z

ALLIES IN PREMATURE DEBATE WITH SOVIETS. BELGIUM AGREED WITH UK APPROACH AND ALSO SHARED KASTL'S VIEW THAT DATA SHOULD BE AGREED IN BRUSSELS AND NOT IN AD HOC GROUP. DUTCH REP AGREED WITH UK APPROACH, BUT WARNED AGAINST SPECIFIC USE OF IISS FIGURES, WHICH SOVIETS HAD ACTUALLY USED AGAINST ALLIES IN PREPARATORY TALKS. ITALIAN REP FAVORED UK APPROACH.

7. FRG REP RANTZAU DID NOT UNDERSTAND WHY U.S. WAS RUSHING AGREEMENT ON FIGURES. HE RECALLED THAT AGREED SCENARIO, CONTAINED IN SECTION III OF CM(73)83, CALLED FOR OPENING STATEMENTS AND DEVELOPMENT OF BROAD THEMES. HE NOTED THAT IN LENGTHY U.S. PAPER ON THEMES, THERE WAS NO MENTION OF FIGURES. THUS WEEKS AND MONTHS COULD PASS IN MBFR TALKS WITHOUT ANY NEED FOR TABLING DATA. IT WAS BAD ENOUGH NOT TO HAVE AGREED FIGURES, BUT IT WOULD BE WORSE TO TABLE FIGURES IN NEGOTIATIONS WHICH ARE NOT TRULY AGREED.

8. COMMENT: IF MBFR WORKING GROUP CAN AGREE TO ROUNDED FIGURES ON OCTOBER 26 OR 29, THIS WILL BE STRONGEST ARGUMENT AGAINST UK CASE FOR WITHHOLDING NATO FIGURES FROM PUBLIC PRIOR TO TABLING THEM IN
NEGOTIATIONS. NONETHELESS, SEVERAL ALLIES WILL CONTINUE TO BE

CONCERNED OVER POSSIBLE LOSS OF FLEXIBILITY IN NEGOTIATIONS BY
PUBLICIZING DEFINITIVE FIGURES
BEFORE TABLING THEM. ALLIES MAY INSIST, IF ROUNDED FIGURES ARE
AGREED, THAT ALLIED SPOKESMEN CAREFULLY CHARACTERIZE THEM
AS APPROXIMATE DATA,
THEREBY LEAVING OPEN POSSIBILITY FOR SOME REVISION IN NEGOTIATIONS.
RUMSFELD

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 02 APR 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973NATO05146
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731064/abqcecvy.tel
Line Count: 172
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) STATE 209532 B) USNATO 5130
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26-Jul-2001 by thigpegh>; APPROVED <21-Sep-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MBFR: DATA ISSUE
TAGS: PARM, NATO
To: STATE
SECDEF INFO VIENNA
BONN
LONDON
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005